

Arlington Council on Aging

Meeting Minutes, June 21, 2018

Present: Jim Munsey, Paul Raia, Mara Klein Collins, Dick Phelps, Rick Fentin, Susan Carp, ED, Ann Fitzgerald, and Marge Vanderhill. Associates present: Bob Tosi. Joe Curro, Selectmen liaison. Absent: Jill Greenlee and Noreen Murphy, Karen Nichols.

A. Call to order: The regular meeting of the Council on Aging Board was called to order by Mara Klein Collins at 6:00PM on June 21, 2018, at 27 Maple Street, Arlington, MA.

B. Citizen's open forum: Leland Stein

C. Minutes of May 17, approved. Jim moved and Rick seconded.

D. Report of the Chair: Reflections

1. Accomplishments of this Board

The diverse experience and insight of this Board and members I've served with over the past six years has had a positive impact on the Council on Aging. Combined with the leadership of Susan and her staff, we have accomplished so much:

2. Office and program space.

Thanks to building a relationship with the Planning Department and Board, working with Susan and Christine to advocate, the building space became the Council on Aging's to utilize. The result was better programming space for increased programs and private offices for confidential conversations with the social workers and nurse.

3. Educated Town Leadership and Arlingtonians.

We created a presentation on the fiscal realities of the COA and presented it to the Board of Selectmen (BOS) and separately on ACMI.

4. Board of Selectman

We requested and received a liaison to the BOS. Joe Curro I cannot thank you enough for educating and advising me on town issues and how to get things done.

5. The Senior Center Building

We brought an awareness of the inaccessibility of the physical plant and the poorly designed space for programs, as well as creating an esthetically welcoming building that is easy to navigate and inviting to linger in and enjoy. I look forward to walking into the newly renovated Senior Center in 2020.

6. Relationship Building Within the Town

We developed a presence in town. In addition to the BOS and Planning Board, we attended meetings of various Boards as well as public forums like Candidates Night to learn and be able to tell the story of Arlington seniors.

7. Increased Professional Staff

Increasing social work hours for the last two years so July 1 we will have two full time social workers.

8. Age friendly

We introduced the concept of an Age Friendly Community and our application was submitted this year.

9. Fund Raising

When we were asked to assist in fund raising we contacted local businesses to obtain sponsorships and helped organizationally on the planning and day of the race. We were pleased to have raised the most money ever raised in the history of the Road Race last year!

My thanks to each and every one of you for all you contributed to achieve all this! I cannot wait to see what you will do in the coming year.

E. ED Report: Susan Carp

1. Older American's lunch hosted 85 seniors (maximum capacity) and everyone enjoyed it
2. 150 attended the Senior Economic Safety event with DA Marian Ryan as our special guest. Feedback has been extremely positive
3. May-June has been extremely busy finishing up all of the Earmark programs and performing the audit and accounting related to those monies. A final report will be presented to the board at the September meeting which will highlight all of the innovative programs we accomplished in 4 months.
4. The staff is incredible and really helped in the additional programming
5. Omissions not intentional and will be discussed at the meeting
6. Appreciation to retiring members Mara, Dick, and Ann for their service on the Board.
7. The Information and Program Coordinator position has been rewritten. It will be posted and is twenty-eight hours per week.
8. A Legislative Breakfast will be held at the Whittemore-Robbins House, Friday, June 22, 2018.

F. Minuteman Senior Services Report: Marge Vanderhill

A financial report was presented at the June meeting. Some issues discussed were staffing vacancies, updating the IT department, and staff working from satellite locations. Susan mentioned each town served by MSS is sent an "invoice" requesting a donation. This will be discussed at the September Board meeting.

G. Old Business:

1. Driveway construction should begin soon.
2. Building Renovation: COA will occupy the first floor.

H. Nominations for the new COA Board: Jim Munsey: Chair, Rick Fentin and Paul Raia: Vice-Chairs, and Marge Vanderhill: Secretary. Rick moved and Jim seconded the nominations. A special “thank you” to Mara, Ann, and Dick as they retire from the COA. Mara and Ann will remain as associate members.

I. Other Business: Joe Curro is the BOS representative to the Town Emergency Planning Committee. Cooling facilities and communication parameters for seniors was discussed.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:15pm. Jim moved and Mara seconded. The next meeting will be held on September 20, 2018.